



City of Prescott
 Public Works Department
 433 N Virginia, PO Box 2059
 Prescott, Arizona 86302

Phone: (928) 777-1130 TDD: (928) 778-5680 FAX: (928) 771-5929

**WATER CONSERVATION / SAFE YIELD
 2008 COMMITTEE
 JANUARY 17, 2008 MEETING NOTES**

MEMBERS:

Timothy Crews, Ph.D., Chair	P	Howard Mechanic- Vice Chair	P
Ann-Marie Benz	P	Andrew Millison	P
Sandy Griffis	P	John Zambrano	P
Charles Hildebrant	P		

(P=Present A=Absent)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mayor Jack Wilson, Councilman Jim Lamerson, Councilwoman Mary Ann Suttles, Shaun Rydell, Jim Holt, Teresa Ogle, Alan Dubiel, Gene Schmidt, MacRae Nicoll, Helen Stephenson

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

Minutes for the December 17, 2007 meeting were approved with the following change:

RECENT & CURRENT BUSINESS

- Remove sentence "Turf removal has been the best cost benefit credit."

RECENT & CURRENT BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Tim Crews: Water conservation – scales of consideration

Postponed for future meeting.

2. Discussion and prioritization of committee tasks and the formation to task groups

Task Force Designations for 2008 were discussed along with specific goals and objectives. Tim Crews met with Craig McConnell, Shaun Rydell, Connie Tucker and Howard Mechanic in an effort to interface well and to determine how much assistance will be required from the committee by City staff or other staff. The group will put together a work list for the year to be approved by Council. This will ensure work, goals and objectives of the committee line up with expectations from Council, and so that council understands what the committee is working on.

See attached Task Force Designations list for member names and descriptions of tasks to be accomplished.

Discussion:

Incentive Review & Funding Recommendation Task Force:

Work needs to start now to influence the upcoming year's budget on incentives. It would be ideal to have 2 full year's data of water conservation, but an evaluation can still be made. It will be important to quantify the market value of a newly acquired gallon of water.

Market Value Effluent Credits PV

\$24,650/acre feet
24,650 ÷ 325,851 gallons
= 7.5 cents/gallon

Big Chino Water Ranch

\$170 million
8,700 acre feet
= 6 cents/gallon

Incentives cost the City a range of 1 to 2 cents per gallon. Research will need to be conducted to determine if incentives were raised, would more people take advantage of them. How much are we willing to pay to have a lawn taken out? What about \$2 per square foot – it's still cheaper than going out to get new water. We need to look at incentives (and other expenditures) in the context of the market value of obtaining a new gallon of water.

Councilman Lamerson discussed effluent sold by the City for \$500/acre foot. It would be worthwhile to investigate rainwater harvesting at the golf course and do a cost benefit analysis, and also look into xeriscaping some unused areas of the golf course.

Shaun indicated that by spring of next year, all washing machines are required by federal law to be high efficiency. Therefore, incentives would not be applicable.

The Mayor indicated that a discussion will take place with City Council concerning the sewer model and the need for major capital improvements. A blue ribbon panel may be established to prioritize funding. Maintenance has been deferred for so long there is a huge expenditure required. Any rate increases for capital improvements will help conservation.

Prescott's Conservation Goal Task Force:

This is a year long task force. The goal is to develop a well informed target of water use reduction for the City of Prescott. Two considerations – 1) developing methods for estimating water that has been conserved due to adoption of incentives or rate structure changes. 2) water that could be conserved through outdoors and indoors conservation measures – how many old fixtures, how many lawns. Is there water to conserve, and if so, how much? Research needs to be done on GPCD of other water conserving communities. Herb Dishlip estimated that water conservation ~~could~~would have to contribute a 22% reduction to GPCD for his calculation to end at safe yield. Is this realistic – determine what is realistic. What is conservation's role in achieving safe yield? The committee will need to provide Council with an estimate of how much water there is to conserve. Is GPCD the right measure? With two water rate increases we should be able to see a reduction in GPCD. Perhaps a mathematical could be used to determine effect of rate increases.

Conservation Applied to Safe Yield:

The goal is to build public trust in City conservation efforts – public wants water conserved to go to address safe yield. ADWR's requirements may complicate this goal. Mayor Wilson stated that he renamed the committee specifically for this reason to engender public trust. Councilman Lamerson stated that he hopes to see a possible policy statement from Council addressing this issue. The BCWR project has set aside 3,500 acre feet ~~of~~from historically irrigated land for safe yield and-or mitigation. What if all this water is needed for mitigation? Current rate payers are paying 20% for BCWR project and safe yield has not been addressed. Jim Holt agrees that this points to a need for a long-term water policy on how to utilize imported water. He also stated that current rate payers have contributed to overdraft, and therefore, some percentage of contribution is appropriate. Jim stated that while we haven't suggested that a specific quantity of imported water be used by existing customers to offset overdraft, neither have we said that all imported water will be dedicated to new growth. More time is required to have assurance about the actual quantity of water we will be allowed to pump. Howard Mechanic stated that most of the imported water will be going toward new areas of town and that Prop 400 mandates that effluent from all annexations of land over 250 acres be dedicated to safe yield. Howard

would like to see codes for new construction limit use of this water for exterior use only, which may allow for capturing up to 70% of effluent. This task force will also tally City Expenditures in relation to safe yield.

Rainwater Harvesting Task Force:

The scope is fairly broad. Tasks include determining code restrictions for use of rainwater from roof catchments for landscaping and indoor applications, and investigating the economics of offering incentives for rainwater harvesting equipment. The legality, practicality and economics of large scale rainwater harvesting (parking lots, municipal buildings, hillsides) will need to be investigated. The Mayor added that Tucson has good ordinances concerning rainwater harvesting on commercial properties, and he would like to see if it is possible to separate commercial from everything else and go after this low hanging fruit. Shaun feels that this is an economic opportunity and wants to ensure we build relationships with existing businesses in our community, and what type of business we could bring in to start building tanks in our region using recycled plastic, etc.

Volunteer Program Task Force:

The goal will be to assess the viability of creating a volunteer program to assist with City water conservation efforts. ...The Mayor stated that he participated in a focus group at Yavapai College establishing a senior volunteer program. He suggested the task force contact Dennis Garvey, who is heading the effort. If volunteers will be visiting homes and conducting audits, liability may be an issue. The City may require insurance coverage. Jim Lamerson agreed to check with the Legal Department for a determination.

City Facilities Task Force:

This group will be tasked with evaluating water usage on City properties and prioritizing water conserving improvements and retrofits. The expense for Retrofitting of facilities will need to be requested in FY09 (\$50,000).

3. Divide into task groups to identify meeting times

Please see attached meeting schedule for task force groups.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Bob Williams, former Principal of Miller Valley School, and currently a realtor, has agreed to join the committee. His expertise in education and real estate ([along with familiarity with the Verde River](#)) will be an asset to the committee. Additional task force volunteers are Amelia Ray, master's student at Prescott College, Peggy Simpson, Nova Asphalt Technology Group, MacRae Nicoll, High Desert Rain Catchment.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 21, 2008** at 3:00 p.m. in the Public Works conference room. Agenda items include details of City water, and landscaping group to present educational collaboration. Shaun Rydell will be out of town for February's meeting. All future meetings will be held the third Thursday of each month, with the possible exception of the March 20, 2008 meeting (spring break). A speaker from the U of A Extension who is a climatologist – may present a talk about the impact of climate change in Arizona at the March meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – 4:25 p.m.

Water Conservation Committee - Safe Yield (WCC SY) 2008

Task Force 2008

Incentive Review and Funding recommendation		Mailing Address	e-mail	Contact Number
Timothy Crews, Ph.D.	Chair - Prescott College-sustainable agriculture	220 Grove Avenue	tcrews@prescott.edu	928.350.2215 Home: 445.8068
Gene Schmidt	Retired - teacher and statistician		geneschmidt8@mac.com	308-9989
Peggy Simpson	Citizen -ghost writer ? articles for paper		novaaschall@earthlink.net	
Bob Williams	Author- Verde River guide - Realtor		bobwms2@kw.com	928-830-6084
Conservation Goals		Mailing Address	e-mail	Contact Number
Timothy Crews, Ph.D.	Chair - Prescott College-sustainable agriculture	220 Grove Avenue	tcrews@prescott.edu	928 - 250 - 0215 Home: 445-8068
John Zambrano	Environmental Engineer, water resources - retired	2910 W Crestview Drive	jzam@cableone.net	928 -708 -1660
Gene Schmidt	Retired - teacher and statistician		geneschmidt8@mac.com	308-9989
Amelia Ray	Prescott College Master Program		amelairay@yahoo.com	
Conservation Applied to Safe Yield		Mailing Address	e-mail	Contact Number
John Zambrano	Environmental Engineer, water resources - retired	2910 W Crestview Drive	jzam@cableone.net	928 -708 -1660
Howard Mechanic	Vice Chair - Citizen Water Advocacy Group	309 Bloom Place	howard@capsuleconnection.com	443-1010
Bob Williams	Keller William Check Realty	PO Box 10573 86304	bobwms2@kw.com	928-830-6084
Connie Tucker	Water Management Analyst	201 S. Cortez	connie.tucker@cityofprescott.net	777-1130
Rainwater Harvesting		Mailing Address	e-mail	Contact Number
Sandy Griffin	YCCA - Association Manager	PO Box 2392, 810 E Sheldon Street	ycca@cableone.net	928-778-0040, fax 928-541-9882
MacRae Nicolle	High Desert Rain Catchment	PO box 13008 86304	highdesertain@gmail.com	928-308-5992
Andrew Millison	T. Barnabus Kane Associate	823 W Gurlay	andrtbka@cableone.net	928 - 445-3515
Charles Hildebrandt	Yavapai Landscape and Nursery Association	P.O. Box 10725	brantaz@mindspring.com	928 - 775-5535
Volunteer Program		Mailing Address	e-mail	Contact Number
Ann-Marie Benz	Prescott Creeks - Program Coordinator	PO Box 3004	AMBenz@PrescottCreeks	445-5669 , Fax 445-5671
Howard Mechanic	Vice Chair of WCC and member of Citizen Water Advocacy Group	309 Bloom Place	howard@capsuleconnection.com	443-1010
City Facilities		Mailing Address	e-mail	Contact Number
Ann-Marie Benz	Prescott Creeks - Program Coordinator	PO Box 3004	AMBenz@PrescottCreeks	445-5669 , Fax 445-5671
Mary Ann Suttles	Councilwoman	201 S. Cortez	maryann.suttles@cityofprescott.net	777-1380
Howard Mechanic	Vice Chair of WCC and member of Citizen Water Advocacy Group- Policy	309 Bloom Place	howard@capsuleconnection.com	443-1010
Bob Williams	Keller William Check Realty	PO Box 10573 86304	bobwms2@kw.com	928-830-6084
Code Revisions		Mailing Address	e-mail	Contact Number
Regional Partnership		Mailing Address	e-mail	Contact Number
Education		Mailing Address	e-mail	Contact Number
Harold Watters	Landscape Design and Nursery Professional		halwats@cableone.net	925-5303
Charles Hildebrandt	Yavapai Landscape and Nursery Association	P.O. Box 10725	brantaz@mindspring.com	928-775-5535